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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

October 7, 2005

The Honorable C. Ray Nagin
Mayor of New Orleans
New Orleans City Hall
1300 Perdido Street
New Orleans, LA 70112

Dear Mayor Nagin:

Pursuant to its authority under Rule XXV(k)(1) of the Standing Rules of the Senate, Section 101 of S. Res 445 (108th Congress), and Section 11(e) of S. Res 50 (109th Congress), the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has initiated an investigation into the Nation's preparedness for, and response to, Hurricane Katrina.

We are both very aware of continued efforts by the City of New Orleans to respond to the destruction of Hurricane Katrina. In fact, we have spent time in the affected areas of the Gulf, and have seen first hand the devastation caused by the hurricane and the efforts currently underway to recover. As noted above, we are making the following requests for information and documents as part of the Committee's investigation into the Nation's preparedness for, and response to, Hurricane Katrina. We recognize the demands on your time at this critical juncture of recovery, but it is important, too, that a thorough Congressional investigation be conducted. Therefore, we respectfully request that the provide the committee (pursuant to the attached instructions and definitions) the following information and documents:

1. Organizational charts of each department, agency, office or other component of the City of New Orleans, including but not limited to the Office of Emergency Preparedness ("OEP"), involved in the response to Hurricane Katrina. Identify the individual(s) who hold or held each key position from August 23, 2005 to September 6, 2005.
2. Describe the roles and responsibilities of the City and each department, agency, office or other component in responding to Hurricane Katrina identified in response to item 1. Identify the statutory, regulatory, or other authorities from which those roles and responsibilities derive. To the extent not publicly available, provide copies of such authorities.
3. All documents generated over the past five years that refer or relate in any way to the risks posed to the City of New Orleans by a hurricane, including, but not limited to, documents that refer or relate to the knowledge of federal, state or local officials, prior to August 29, 2005, of such risks.

4. All documents, including but not limited to communications between or among federal, state, or local officials, generated over the past five years that refer or relate in any way to the vulnerability of the levee system, or particular levees, in or around the City of New Orleans to damage, breach or overflow, including, but not limited to, documents that refer or relate to the knowledge of federal, state or local officials, prior to August 29, 2005, of such vulnerability.
5. All documents that constitute, refer or relate to any communication from August 23, 2005 to September 6, 2005 between the City and any federal agency or officials, including but not limited to the Army Corps of Engineers, that refers or relates to the levee system in New Orleans.
6. All documents that refer or relate to the hurricane planning exercise known as Hurricane Pam, including, but not limited to, all plans, reports, after-action reviews and other analyses, whether in final or draft, that refer or relate to Hurricane Pam.
7. All documents that refer or relate to any other planning or exercises conducted in the past five years to respond to a hurricane scenario in or around New Orleans.
8. All documents generated by OEP for the past five years that refer or relate to planning or preparedness for a hurricane or for catastrophic disasters or incidents.
9. The city emergency plan(s) for New Orleans and all documents that refer or relate to such plan(s), including, but not limited to, documents that refer or relate to Louisiana Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness's and/or FEMA's review, consideration, or approval of such plan(s), including:
 - a. All implementation procedures for the city emergency plan;
 - b. All-hazard emergency operations plans and implementing procedures for the City of New Orleans;
 - c. Plans, procedures, resource inventories, and notification lists of city agencies under the emergency operation plan;
 - d. All annexes, appendices, procedures, resource inventories, and notification/recall lists of the City of New Orleans Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan or Emergency Operations Plan;
 - e. Any Continuity of Operations Plans describing plans, procedures, arrangement, and agreements.
 - f. All procedures for public identification of shelters, critical recovery services and centers;
 - g. All procedures for providing information to transient and homeless populations and the Severe Weather Shelter Program referred to in the Plan;
 - h. All Emergency Support Function-14 procedures and operational guidelines established in accordance with Part 2 (III)(B)(8) of the Hurricane Annex of the New Orleans Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan;
 - i. All plans, procedures regarding notification, transportation, and sheltering of persons with special needs; and
 - j. All plans and procedures for the preparation for and response to hurricanes and floods for

individual parishes in the New Orleans area.

10. All documents that refer or relate to evacuation and sheltering plans and procedures for New Orleans and surrounding areas, including but not limited to, the Last Resort Refuges Standard Operating Procedures and the Super Shelter Standard Operating Procedures.
11. All documents that refer or relate to mitigation of damage arising from hurricane and floods in the City of New Orleans for the past five years.
12. All after-action reviews, "hot washes," internal reviews, or other post-disaster analyses conducted by OEP in the past five years.
13. Please describe all evacuations conducted in or around New Orleans in connection with Hurricane Ivan in 2004. What lessons were learned as a result of those evacuations? What changes were made to evacuation procedures as a result? Describe any differences in evacuation procedures or practices between the evacuations for Hurricane Ivan and the evacuations for Hurricane Katrina. Provide copies of all evacuation orders for Hurricane Ivan and any documents that review, analyze or criticize the evacuations for Hurricane Ivan.
14. Please provide a chronology and detailed description of evacuation orders and actions in connection with Hurricane Katrina, including but not limited to, the date and time of issuance for any evacuation notices and orders (such as precautionary evacuation notices, special needs evacuation orders, and general evacuation notices); who ordered the evacuations; where evacuees were evacuated to; and under what authority such evacuations were ordered. Please describe specifically all actions taken to evacuate or attempt to evacuate individuals without personal transportation and those with medical conditions and special needs, including residents of nursing homes, hospitals and other facilities for the elderly, sick or disabled. If additional measures relating to evacuations were considered but not implemented, please describe the contemplated measures and explain why they were not implemented. Please identify all requests made by the OEP to the State of Louisiana and responses received for additional law enforcement or traffic control assistance in connection with the Katrina-related evacuations.
15. All documents that refer or relate to the matters discussed in your response to item 14.
16. To the extent not previously produced, all documents that refer or relate to the evacuation of New Orleans and the surrounding areas in connection with Hurricane Katrina.
17. Please describe all plans for providing security in evacuated areas that were operative on or after August 29, 2005 and provide copies of all documents that refer or relate to such plans. Please describe how these plans were implemented in connection with the response to Hurricane Katrina.
18. To the extent not described in previous responses, please describe in detail all preparations made by the City on or before August 29, 2005 for the arrival of Hurricane Katrina. Be specific as to the time and date of the events and identify all key personnel involved. Provide copies of all documents that refer or relate to such preparations. Please provide a chronology of communications

regarding the progress of Hurricane Katrina (a) between the New Orleans OEP and the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness, (b) between OEP and the National Hurricane Center, (c) between OEP and the National Weather Service, and (d) between OEP and any other federal, state, or local agencies. Also provide all records and logs of such communications.

19. All documents in the City's possession, custody or control (as defined by General Instruction No. 1 of the attached instructions and definitions) that refer or relate to communications on or before September 6, 2005 regarding Hurricane Katrina sent or received by any of the following : (i) Mayor Nagin or his staff, (ii) the Office of the Mayor, (iii) Police Superintendent Eddie Compass or any senior official of the New Orleans Police Department, (iv) any emergency management official of the City or any Parish of Southeast Louisiana, (v) any senior official of the OEP, the New Orleans Fire Department or the New Orleans Health Department, (vi) the Chief Administrative Officer, (vii) any member of the New Orleans City Council, (viii) Governor Blanco or her staff, (ix) the Office of the Governor, (x) Major General Bennett C. Landreneau, (xi) the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness, (xii) the Louisiana National Guard, (xiii) the Louisiana State Police, or (xiv) any federal agency or department, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense or the National Hurricane Center.

20. To the extent not already provided, all documents between August 29, 2005 and September 6, 2005 that refer or relate to any of the following subjects: (i) the levees or the levee system, (ii) lawlessness, looting, or other law enforcement, public safety or public order issues, (iii) the situations in the Superdome and/or Convention Center, (iv) evacuation of the Superdome, Convention Center or other areas of New Orleans, (v) search and rescue, (vi) environmental or public health hazards or threats in New Orleans, (vii) providing medical services or care to individuals affected by Hurricane Katrina, (viii) the status of nursing homes, hospitals or other medical facilities, (ix) the failure or inadequacy of emergency communications, (x) desertions within the New Orleans Police Department or (xi) conflicts regarding organization, area of responsibility or command and control within or among federal, state, City or other agencies involved in the response to Hurricane Katrina.

21. Identify each request for assistance, and the response thereto, in connection with Hurricane Katrina made on or before September 6, 2005 by the City, the OEP or any other department, agency, office or component of New Orleans, or any representative thereof, to (i) FEMA, the U.S. military or any other federal government entity, (ii) the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness or any other state government entity, or (iii) any other agency or organization. Provide copies of all documents that refer or relate to such requests or responses.

22. All documents on or before September 6, 2005, constituting, referring or relating to assistance or offers of assistance from federal or state officials or first responders, or from others in the private or nonprofit sectors, regarding Hurricane Katrina.

23. All notes, recordings, videotapes and any other documents from meetings, teleconferences or videoconferences relating to Hurricane Katrina on or prior to September 6, 2005.

24. All documents that constitute, refer or relate to the following in connection with Hurricane Katrina:

- a. All documents referring or relating to any actions taken to advise the public of imminent danger, including but not limited to, actions taken to warn residents of New Orleans or surrounding areas of actual or potential levee breach(es);
- b. All documents referring or relating to advising the public of developments and procedures for locating emergency services, including the text or audio of public announcements;
- c. All documents referring or relating to criteria used to determine the extent and methods of warning the public of imminent danger;
- d. All documents referring or relating to alert systems available to the City of New Orleans;
- e. All documents referring or relating to the assignment of an on scene incident commander;
- f. All communications (including phone logs) between the Director of OEP, or his designee, and those notified by the office of OEP of the emergency; and
- g. All documents and communications regarding activation of the EOC.

25. Identify and provide copies of all authorities, regulations, procedures, policies, and operating guidance related to OEP's ability to act or task, assign missions to, or seek assistance from other entities or organizations, including, but not limited to, any other state or federal agency, in responding to an emergency or major disaster. Provide all documents that refer or relate to any such action, tasking, requests or mission assignments by OEP in connection with Hurricane Katrina.

26. Identify and provide copies of all requests or grants for emergency preparedness funding and/or assistance over the past five years from the City of New Orleans as well as all annual plans, reports, evaluations received or prepared by the OEP concerning these requests.

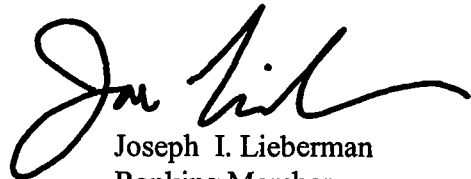
27. All documents that refer or relate to federal funding of levees or the levee system in or around the City of New Orleans, including but not limited to, the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Protection Project and the West Bank and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project.

We request you provide the requested information as it becomes available, but not later than November 3, 2005. We thank you and your staff in advance for your cooperation. If you or your staff have any questions concerning this request, please contact James McKay of the Committee's majority staff at 202-224-4751 or Josh Levy of the Committee's minority staff at 202-224-2627.



Susan M. Collins
Chairman

Sincerely,



Joseph I. Lieberman
Ranking Member